STAR OF MYSORE

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Lit Fest begins

Pramoda Devi Wadiyar, member of erstwhile Mysore Royal Family and Shubha Sanjay Urs, Founder-Director and Chairperson of Mysuru Literary Forum Charitable Trust and Mysuru Book Clubs Charitable Trust, lighting the traditional lamp to inaugurate the 10th edition of Mysuru Literature Festival at Hotel Southern Star in city this morning. Others seen are (from left) Secretary Thankam Panakal, Member Kitty Mandana, author-entrepreneur Aroon Raman, bestselling author Amish Tripathi, Vice-Chairman Sam Cherian Kumbukattu and Treasurer Raian Irani.

Mysuru, July 4 (BLU&BCT)- The 10th edition of the Mysuru Literature Festival began at Hotel Southern Star on Vinoba Road this morning, bringing together eminent authors, historians, journalists, artistes, entrepreneurs and intellectuals from across the country.

The two-day festival, jointly organised by the Mysuru Literary Forum Charitable Trust and Mysuru Book Clubs Charitable Trust, was inaugurated by Pramoda Devi Wadiyar, member of the erstwhile Mysore Royal Family. Bestselling author Amish Tripathi and author-entrepreneur Aroon Raman were the guests of honour.

Marking a decade of literary engagement, this year's festival features sessions on literature, history, mythology, science, business, cinema, music, public policy and artificial intelligence.

In her inaugural address, Pramoda Devi Wadiyar described the festival as a meaningful initiative that has sustained itself over the past ten years.

"Over the last decade, this festival has consistently provided a platform for thoughtful discussions, literary dialogue and the exchange of ideas. It has evolved into a vibrant forum for debate and reflection. I hope it continues not just for another decade, but for many more to come," she said.

(See LIT FEST on page 7)

Headless MDA

Commissioner's post still vacant; DC, as MDA Chairman, tied up with administering the district

Mysuru, July 4 (BLU&BCT)- The State Government dissolved the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) following allegations of large-scale illegal site allotment and financial irregularities and replaced it with the Mysuru Development Authority (MDA). However, the new Authority is now grappling with administrative issues, with key posts lying vacant.

The MDA has been functioning without a full-time Commissioner for the past 25 days. Earlier, K.R. Rakshith, then Mysuru Assistant Commissioner, had been posted as MDA Special Land Acquisition Officer and was also given additional charge as the MDA Commissioner.

After serving in the dual role for nearly a year, Rakshith was transferred as the Personal Secretary to Urban Development Minister Dr. Yathindra Siddaramaiah. Since his transfer, no successor has been appointed.

Besides the vacant Commissioner's post, the position of Special Land Acquisition Officer also remains unfilled, leaving two key posts vacant.

(See MDA on page 7)

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Saturday 4th July 2026

New team of SKAL, Mysuru

A group photo of the new office-bearers of SKAL International, Mysuru, who were elected for the period 2026-28 at the AGM held recently. Seen are** (from left) **Dhatri Bharadwaj - PR Director; Samarth G. Vaidya - Secretary; M.L. Nagesh - Vice-President; S.J. Ashok - President; C.A. Jayakumar - Immediate Past President and R. Adarsh - Treasurer. SKÅL International is a leading organisation of Travel & Tourism Professionals and "Skål" comes from a traditional Scandinavian greeting and drinking toast meaning "cheers" or "good health."

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

A LESSON IN HUMILITY AT MASS: ***It started as a typical Eucharistic Celebration, commonly known to Catholics as Mass. The communal service followed its standard, beautiful rhythm: scripture readings, a homily, prayers and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.***

During this sacred commemoration of the Last Supper, the priest invokes the power of the Holy Spirit, changing the presented bread and wine into the true Body and Blood of Christ. But that day, the liturgy became deeply personal. Through the priest's moving reflection on the day's Gospel passage, I received a transformative lesson in humility and holiness.

The reading was the text from the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 7, verses 1 to 5. In this section of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus exhorts His disciples to be tolerant of others and to look inward. It reads: "Do not judge or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

Listening closely, the message became clear. Dwelling on the faults and shortcomings of others is not only uncharitable but also hypocritical when we fail to acknowledge our own imperfections.

I understood that genuine transformation begins with honest self-examination and the humility to correct our own failings. This vital shift from harsh judgement to sincere self-correction ultimately frees our hearts from hypocrisy and draws us closer to God each day.

Known as the parable of the mote and the beam, this enduring teaching illustrates the absolute importance of sincere and serious self-examination. The "mote" represents a small, insignificant flaw; while the "beam" signifies a much larger personal fault or sin.

By reforming ourselves first, we cultivate humility, overcome hypocrisy, grow in holiness and draw closer to God. I left the church that day with this truth echoing in my heart. *— Dorothy Victor in Deccan Herald*

NEWS SPARKLERS

Mystery apples wash up on beach

Corolla: An organisation dedicated to protect wild horses in North Carolina said several apples found on a beach had apparently fallen from a cargo ship.

The Corolla Wild Horse Fund said officials received a call reporting the local beach in Corolla was littered with loose apples.

Employees and volunteers collected several bags of apples. A pair of men who regularly clear garbage from the beach later found many more apples, as well as some oranges.

The incident recalled another event from a few years ago, when Doritos chips washed up on the beach.

Currencies replaced with play money

Seoul: A South Korean bank manager managed to take over 70 million won ($45,000) from his branch's vault by replacing genuine banknotes with play money featuring cartoonish animals.

South Korean news media recently revealed that a branch manager of a Saemaul Credit Union in Gyeongju, North Gyeongsang Province, confessed to taking considerable amounts of money from the bank vault and trying to cover up his actions by replacing the banknotes with fake bills.

But what really attracted people's attention was the funny-looking bills he used.

Photos and videos of the play money used in the embezzlement scheme went viral on social media, inspiring a variety of funny comments from flabbergasted netizens.

The photos showed cartoonish replicas of 50,000-won banknotes featuring cartoon animals like ducks and bears.

In a press release, Saemaul Credit Union stated that it had fired the bank manager.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Men Need Preventive Check-ups Too

Many men prioritize work deadlines over health check-ups. A timely urological assessment can prevent bigger problems later.

By Dr. Thimmaiah K A - Consultant Urology, Andrology & Kidney Transplant Surgeon - Manipal Hospitals Mysore

manipalhospitals
LIFE'S ON

**** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature***

Haj-2027 pilgrimage:
Online registration begins

Mysuru, July 4- The Haj Committee of India, under the Ministry of Minority Affairs, has started the online registration window for Haj-2027 on June 22, 2026 and it closes at 11.59 pm on July 20, 2026, said Abdul Azeez Chand and Mohamed Mumtaz Ahmed of Mysuru.

The pilgrims will have to deposit the advance amount of Rs. 1,52,300 by Aug.10, 2026.

Haj-2027 applicants will have to upload the following documents: Indian Passport valid till 31.12.2027; Passport size photo with white background; Bank pass book and cancelled cheque; Aadhaar Card; PAN Card; Blood Group; Details if applied last time through *www.hajcommittee.gov.in* or download Haj Suvidha Mobile App.

For free guidance and forms uploading, the pilgrims may visit the Phulwari (Muslim Girls Orphanage) on Ashoka Road in city, stated a press release from Abdul Azeez Chand and Mohamed Mumtaz Ahmed. For details contact Mob:97417-89000 or Ph: 0821-2417702.

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Grandma: *To catch hold of my teeth!!*

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VOICE OF THE READER

White topping of good roads makes no sense

Sir,

The decision of the Mysuru City Corporation to undertake white topping of several major roads certainly deserves appreciation.

The initiative promises durable road infrastructure, reduced maintenance costs and fewer disruptions due to repairs for the next two to three decades. Such foresight in urban planning is commendable.

However, what leaves citizens perplexed is the urgency with which white topping has been taken up on roads that were still in good condition and had substantial residual life.

Many of these stretches were functioning satisfactorily and did not warrant immediate replacement. While the long-term benefits of white topping cannot be disputed, replacing serviceable roads raises concerns about whether public funds are being utilised judiciously.

A more prudent approach would have been to identify roads that had reached the end of their useful life or had deteriorated significantly and prioritise them for white topping.

Funds could have been earmarked in advance and works executed only when reconstruction was genuinely required.

Prematurely dismantling roads in reasonably good condition not only results in avoidable expenditure but also inconveniences the public unnecessarily.

It is therefore urged that, in future, the authorities undertake a comprehensive technical assessment of existing road conditions before initiating such major works. This will ensure that public funds are deployed most effectively, while also sparing citizens needless disruption.

—Dr. G. Rathnakar
Mysuru
23.6.2026

Gujarat Handicrafts Utsav begins

A.B. Basavaraju** (centre), **Commissioner for Textile Development and Director of Handloom and Textile, who inaugurated the Gujarat Handicrafts Utsav-2026, organised by Industrial Extension Cottage (INDEXT-C), Government of Gujarat, at JSS Mysore Urban Haat, Ring Road, Hebbal Industrial Area, Mysuru, last evening, is seen taking a look at the garments on display. He is seen with** (from right) **R. Aishwarya, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mysuru, Dr. Snehal Makwana** (partially seen), **Manager (Marketing), INDEXT-C, Gurajat and Rakesh Rai, Co-ordinator, JSS Mysore Urban Haat.The Handicrafts Utsav will be open to public between 10 am and 8 pm till July 12.

Last date extended for free mock test

Mysuru, July 4- The Karnataka State Police Department Recruitment Committee is conducting a written examination across the State for the recruitment of Civil Constable and CAR/DAR Constables on Aug. 2.

For the benefit of candidates appearing for the exam, the Central Library at People's Park in city will be conducting mock test related to the said exam free of cost from July 7.

The last date to register for the same has been extended from July 4 to July 6.

Interested candidates can register their names at the City Central Library.

The Deputy Director of the City Central Library has, in a press release, said it is mandatory for candidates wishing to appear for the mock test to obtain membership in any of the branch Libraries located in various areas of Mysuru city, including the People's Park Library.

Applications invited for guest teachers

Mysuru, July 4- The Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KREIS) has invited applications from qualified candidates for appointment as guest teachers in various subjects (English, Physical Education and Computer Science) to serve at residential schools run by the Society.

The eligible teachers can apply along with all supporting records at the Office of the Joint Director, Social Welfare Department, Mysuru, before July 9, according to a press release.

Post-matric hostel admission

Mysuru, July 4- The Backward Classes Welfare Department has invited applications from eligible boy and girl students (only degree students) from Backward Classes belonging to Categories 1, 2a, 2b, 3a and 3b and SC/ST communities for new admission to post-matric student hostels run by the Department in all districts of the State.

The annual income of parents of students belonging to Category-1 and SC/ST communities should not exceed Rs. 2.5 lakh and that of parents of students belonging to Categories 2a, 2b, 3a and 3b should not exceed Rs.1 lakh.

Eligible students can apply through the Department website *https://shp.karnataka.gov.in/bcwd* before July 20.

For further details, call Mob: 80507-70004, according to a press release.

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Mysuru Literature Festival enters

Nurturing city's... READING Culture

10th edition

At a time when libraries were losing relevance with the rise of electronic gadgets, one woman in Mysuru came up with the idea of starting the Mysuru Book Clubs in 2010. The initiative was well-received by the city's people, inspiring her to launch the Mysuru Literature Festival in 2017. Since then, there has been no looking back.

The woman behind the festival is *Shubha Sanjay Urs*, Founder of the Mysuru Literature Festival. This year's edition marks the festival's 10th milestone. Ahead of the event, *Star of Mysore* caught up with Shubha to talk about the lit festival, its journey over the years and what readers can expect this time...

Shubha Sanjay Urs, Founder-Director, Mysuru Literature Festival.

Star of Mysore (SOM): This is the 10th edition of the Mysuru Literature Festival. How did you get the idea to start it?

Shubha Sanjay Urs: When I was growing up, our home was always filled with books. So, when I wanted to do something for Mysuru, my hometown, it was only natural that it revolved around books. I started the Mysuru Book Clubs in 2010. From then until now, it has been a long journey, and I have never looked back. We have grown step by step, reaching out to people from all sections of society, not just in Mysuru but also in the surrounding areas, encouraging them to read, write and engage with literature.

SOM: Did you face any initial struggles when you started the literature festival?

Shubha Sanjay Urs: I would not really call them struggles because I had already started with the book club, and it picked up momentum almost immediately. We began with one book club, then another, followed by a Kannada book club and a children's book club.

Later, I felt it was time to contribute more to society, so we started book clubs for orphanages, slums, special schools and senior citizens' homes. There has never been a dull moment. It has always been about asking, 'What next?'

After the book clubs came book releases, then author interactions, and eventually I felt it was time to launch a literature festival. That is how the Mysuru Literature Festival came into being.

SOM: How did you manage to raise funds for the book clubs and the literature festival?

Shubha Sanjay Urs: That was a difficult decision initially. But I decided to seek support from friends and individuals rather than corporates. Mysuru is a city built on relationships and emotions. I felt a more personal approach would work better.

That is why, over the last 10 years, we have relied on friends and well-wishers instead of approaching corporate sponsors. We may consider corporate support in the future, but so far, we have not.

SOM: How do you curate the list of Kannada and English authors?

Shubha Sanjay Urs: Curation does not happen in a day, a week or even a month. It is a continuous process that takes months and sometimes years.

Many people may not know that I am a researcher, a textile consultant and a geneticist by profession. My work involves a lot of travel, both within India and abroad, and that gives me opportunities to meet authors and scholars.

During one such trip, I met Nobel laureate Venki Ramakrishnan and invited him to Mysuru. He agreed because one of his books was due for release and he was planning to visit India. However, the pandemic in 2020 disrupted those plans.

We stayed in touch over the years, and in 2025, when he told me he would be visiting India, I made sure he came to Mysuru. We organised a standalone launch of his book 'Why We Die'.

That is why I say curation does not happen overnight. It requires constant effort, networking and planning. People often ask me how I manage to bring together so many authors and speakers for a two-day festival, but it is the result of years of building relationships and staying connected.

SOM: How do you manage well-known authors? Have you ever faced any difficult situations with them?

Shubha Sanjay Urs: I have never come across such situations. When people refer to 'VIP authors,' they usually mean best-selling writers or those who come from prominent backgrounds. But none of the authors who have attended the Mysuru Literature Festival has ever created any trouble. I don't have any unpleasant memories involving our guests.

SOM: What responsibility do literature festivals have in promoting regional languages and lesser-known writers?

Shubha Sanjay Urs: At the Mysuru Literature Festival, we also organise *'Mysuru Sahitya Sambhrama'*, which gives equal opportunities to emerging authors. We believe every writer deserves a platform. At our festival, all participants are treated equally by the members of the Mysuru Book Clubs and the trustees of the literary forum.

SOM: Critics often say literature festivals have become gatherings for already established voices. How do you respond to that criticism?

Shubha Sanjay Urs: I don't think that is entirely true. Perhaps some of the larger festivals may focus more on established names, but I believe literature festivals across India generally try to give equal importance to everyone.

At the Mysuru Literature Festival, our focus has never been only on best-selling, popular or well-known authors. We also make a conscious effort to provide a platform for emerging voices.

— Team *SOM*

Mysuru Literature Fest begins

(Continued from page 3)

Rich historical and spiritual legacy

Speaking on the occasion, banker turned award-winning author Amish Tripathi reflected on Mysuru's rich historical and spiritual legacy. Recalling the legend of Goddess Chamundeshwari slaying Mahishasura, he said, the city's very name is rooted in that mythology.

"Chamundeshwari's victory symbolises the triumph of knowledge over ignorance. Mysuru stands as a land where wisdom has conquered darkness," he remarked.

Tripathi also highlighted the legacy of the Wadiyar dynasty, describing it as one of India's oldest royal lineages, with its rule dating back to the 14th century.

Wadiyar legacy

The former Diplomat, widely famous for revolutionising Indian mythological fiction, said that unlike many Princely States during the British era that spent their wealth on personal luxury, he said, the Wadiyars invested in public welfare and institution-building.

"They established institutions such as Mysore University, creating an environment that nurtured talent and laid the foundation for generations of progress. They invested their own resources in public welfare projects and that foresight transformed Mysuru into a model developmental State," he observed.

He made special mention of *Bharat Ratna* Sir M. Visvesvaraya, saying his vision and leadership reflected the dynasty's commitment to recognising and nurturing talent.

"India has always had talent. What was needed were systems to identify and encourage it. Mysuru's rulers created those systems and that legacy remains one of the city's greatest contributions to the nation," he added.

Deeply rooted in Mysuru

Aroon Raman said, the festival had grown into a nationally recognised literary event while remaining deeply rooted in Mysuru.

"This festival is organised by Mysureans for Mysureans. Today, authors from across India come here not only to participate in literary discussions but also to experience Mysuru's heritage, royal legacy and culture. That, in my opinion, is the true success of the festival as it completes ten years," he said.

Among those present on the dais were Founder-Director and Chairperson of Mysuru Literary Forum Charitable Trust and Mysuru Book Clubs Charitable Trust Shubha Sanjay Urs, Vice-Chairman Sam Cherian Kumbukattu, Secretary Thankam Panakal, Treasurer Raian Irani and Trustee Kitty Mandana.

8 books released

Pramoda Devi Wadiyar unveiling the book** 'The Inner Charioteer' **authored by Dr. R. Balasubramaniam.

***Dr. Hemamalini Lakshman's book** 'Soulful Symphony.'*

Eight books, spanning literature, history, biography and contemporary thought, were released at the Mysuru Literature Festival following its inauguration. The books were unveiled by Pramoda Devi Wadiyar.

Among the releases was *'Malgudiya Mayakarana Mane,'* authored by Jayashree Jagannath and Shubha Sanjay Urs, brought out to mark the 120th birth anniversary of celebrated author R.K. Narayan. The other books released were: *'Core Strength - Triton Valves: The First Fifty Years'* by Roopa Pai, *'Soulful Symphony'* by Dr. Hemamalini Lakshman, *'If Gandhi Returned'* by C. Rudrappa, *'Longing for an Elsewhere'* by Chandan Gowda, *'The Inner Charioteer'* by Dr. R. Balasubramaniam, a full-time Member of NITI Aayog and *'Mysore Lancers'* by Anil Raje Urs.

Headless MDA...

(Continued from page 3)

MDA Chairman busy

Deputy Commissioner (DC) G. Lakshmikanth Reddy is the Chairman of MDA. However, with his responsibilities as the DC, he is unable to devote regular time to the authority.

Officials said, he attends important meetings, clears pending files and leaves. For urgent approvals, MDA staff have to approach him at the DC's Office.

The Secretary is the next senior-most officer in the Authority. However, officials said that Secretary K. Johnson has been reluctant to take decisions, reportedly preferring to refer even routine matters to the Chairman in the wake of the controversies that surrounded the former MUDA.

No supervision of daily activities

The absence of a full-time Commissioner has affected the functioning of Authority, with many files reportedly pending & decision-making slowing down.

'Appointment within 2 days'

"The Government is aware that the MDA Commissioner's post is vacant. A Commissioner will be appointed within the next two days. The appointment could be either a full-time Commissioner or an officer given additional charge. The process is already underway at the Government level."

—G. Lakshmikanth Reddy, Deputy Commissioner and MDA Chairman

According to sources, the lack of senior leadership has also resulted in poor supervision of day-to-day operations. They alleged that attendance among some staff has become irregular and that members of the public often find officials unavailable when they visit the office.

Unlike the erstwhile MUDA, which had Legislators, Corporators and Government-nominated Members on its Board, the MDA currently has no elected representatives in its structure. As a result, citizens have limited avenues to raise civic issues or seek intervention in matters concerning the authority.

Meanwhile, thousands of applicants continue to wait for site allotments. According to them, even 20x30 sites have not been allotted, while corner sites and commercial sites in developed layouts have been auctioned. They allege that no residential sites have been allotted to eligible beneficiaries at concessional rates under Government norms.

With two key posts remaining vacant and no full-time administrative head in place, the functioning of the MDA has come under scrutiny, with citizens and stakeholders calling for the Government to fill the vacancies at the earliest.

MDA yet to deliver promised reforms

Mysuru, July 4 (BLU&BCT)- The Mysuru Development Authority (MDA), formed after the dissolution of MUDA, is being described by many as 'old wine in a new bottle.' They argue that, apart from a name change, there has been little visible reform.

Mysuru's urban planning history dates back to 1903, when Rajarshi Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar established the City Improvement Trust Board (CITB), regarded as Asia's first statutory body for planned urban development.

In 1988, CITB was renamed Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA). Following MUDA controversy, the State Government renamed it as the Mysuru Development Authority (MDA) on May 16, 2025.

However, many believe the change has been largely cosmetic. They point out that while the Wadiyar era was known for planned development, MUDA and now MDA continue to face criticism over their functioning.

Following the MUDA controversy, then Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had promised to overhaul the system and create a more transparent and efficient authority through the MDA. However, critics say, the Authority is yet to show significant improvement.

With the Authority facing criticism over its functioning, many citizens are now looking to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar (DKS) to introduce structural reforms and improve the administration of the Mysuru Development Authority.

IN BLACK & WHITE

Vikram Muthanna

NO to Kambala

Stop cluttering Dasara to make money

Cartoon by Satish Acharya shows when** Jumboo Savari **was the highlight of a calm Dasara and now how it has dwarfed surrounded by chaotic multiple events.

Every few years, just before Dasara, someone gets a bright idea, which is, *"Ah, let's add one more event to Mysuru Dasara."* This year, it is *Kambala,* the spectacular buffalo race of Coastal Karnataka.

The *Kambala* is undoubtedly a magnificent tradition and deserves to be celebrated, but… not in Mysuru Dasara.

The issue is not about *Kambala* but about the slow and steady transformation of Mysuru Dasara from India's most elegant royal festival into an overcrowded Government-sponsored *'jathre.'*

Today, Dasara suffers from what can only be called as "event inflation."

Today, Dasara is filled with events. We have *Mahila Dasara, Raitha Dasara, Makkala Dasara, Dasara Aahara Mela, Yoga Dasara, Dasara Flower Show, Dasara Air Show, Dasara Drone Show, Karakushala Dasara, Dasara Sports, Dasara Film Festival, Dasara Wrestling, Dasara Kavi Ghosti, Dasara Mushaira, Dasara Doll Show* and all this is packed into 10 days! Phew!

Now they want to add *Kambala* to this list with a budget of Rs. 8 crore? We fear what will they add next? *Dasara Dance festival,* Punjab's *Bullan di Daud* or Tamil Nadu's *Jalli Kattu* as part of our Dasara?

If the reason to add *Kambala* is to showcase other festivals from our State, then the answer is: That is why we have the tableaux in the procession, so we don't have to bring the actual event to our city.

The Government says they are getting all these events *"for the people",* but for the most part, it is *"for themselves."* Dasara sadly today has also become the festival of *"kickbacks."*

> **"Dasara sadly today has also become the festival of "kickbacks."**

> **By cramming every conceivable event into ten days, we are exhausting both the visitor and the city itself. Instead spread it throughout the year.**

> **Build a year-round tourism calendar... Give tourists twelve reasons to visit Mysuru instead of asking them to experience everything in just ten overcrowded Dasara days..."**

The more events there are, the more political *'chamchas'* can be made Chairmen of Sub-Committees and more budget can be allocated and more money can be made.

Despite the increase in budget, the one event that truly matters, the *Jumboo Savari,* has suffered the most.

In fact, our officials have spent more time having meetings on choosing celebrity singers and their payments than planning the *Jumboo Savari* procession.

No wonder, the Dasara procession, the main event of Dasara, instead of becoming more majestic has become more chaotic and lacking in imagination.

If Mysuru genuinely wants Dasara to become a global attraction, it needs to stop cluttering it with multiple events.

Just look at the world's great festivals. They don't try to do everything. They do a few things exceptionally well.

Today, none of the Dasara events will make a high-value tourist want to return. More importantly, by cramming every conceivable event into ten days, we are exhausting both the visitor and the city itself.

The Karnataka Government must stop treating Mysuru as a city that comes alive for just ten days during Dasara. Instead, it should build a year-round tourism calendar.

Keep Dasara focused on what made it legendary, which is the Royal Procession, the Exhibition, the curated cultural performances and the illuminations.

Spread the rest across the year: An international music festival in February, a Karnataka Food Festival in April, an International Yoga Week in June, a literature festival on the lines of Jaipur Lit Fest and an arts festival like Kochi's *Biennale*.

Basically, give tourists twelve reasons to visit Mysuru instead of asking them to experience everything in just ten overcrowded days.

A tourist city like ours should remain culturally vibrant throughout the year brining in a variety of tourists into the city. A year-long calendar of events will make it more enjoyable for the tourists and also manageable for the city.

For now, Dasara is losing its shine by becoming the dumping ground for events to make money in the name of culture.

Dasara's greatest strength has always been its uniqueness and every unnecessary event chips away at that uniqueness and grandeur.

We must not forget that more is not always better. Sometimes, more is simply… clutter.

Indeed, *Kambala* deserves to remain the pride of Coastal Karnataka, just as Dasara must remain the pride of Mysuru.

e-mail: vikram@starofmysore.com

Mysuru Literature Festival-2026

What will India look like after Narendra Modi?

PM Modi's legacy will be decided in next five years: Capt. G.R. Gopinath

Entrepreneur and Founder of erstwhile Air Deccan Capt. G.R. Gopinath speaking at the session moderated by Prof. Shankar Bellur.

Mysuru, July 4 (BLU&BCT)- Retired Indian Army officer, entrepreneur and founder of the erstwhile Air Deccan, Capt. G.R. Gopinath drew comparisons between India's democratic system and China's authoritarian model, asserting that despite its shortcomings, democracy remains India's greatest strength.

Speaking at Mysuru Lit Fest session titled *"Flights of Contemplation: A Bird's-Eye View of a Nation in Flux,"* moderated by academician, corporate trainer and career mentor Prof. Shankar Bellur, Capt. Gopinath quoted former PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi to stress his point.

"Even the weakest democracy is better than the strongest dictatorship," he said. He observed that while India's democracy has its flaws, it remains one of the world's oldest and most resilient democratic systems and continues to provide a strong foundation for the country's future.

During the discussion, Prof. Bellur posed the question, "Who after Narendra Modi?" Capt. Gopinath responded that the more relevant question was, "What will India look like after Modi?"

Referring to the political partnership between Prime Minister Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, often described as 'Jodi Number One', he said leaders such as Amit Shah or Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath could emerge as future national leaders, noting that Yogi enjoys considerable popularity and could be a strong contender.

Capt. Gopinath said PM Modi's tenure has witnessed several significant achievements that are often overlooked by his critics.

Absence of credible Opposition

He noted that Modi has sought to draw inspiration from diverse philosophical and spiritual traditions, ranging from Buddha and Jesus Christ to Adi Shankaracharya and Mahatma Gandhi. At the same time, he said, certain political decisions have sent what he described as "mixed messages."

"As an example, Modi pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at Raj Ghat while also honouring Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, whose ideological views were markedly different from Gandhiji's. This duality defines Modi's unique political style," he observed.

Capt. Gopinath also expressed concern over what he described as the absence of a strong and credible Opposition leadership in the country. "As India continues its rise on the global stage, it needs a robust Opposition to ensure accountability and strengthen democratic governance," he said.

Looking ahead, he said the next five years would determine how history judges Modi. "Will he be remembered as the leader who united nation and left behind a positive legacy, or as one who deepened divisions through polarisation? Only time will tell."

Yaduveer for SIR under Police security in N.R. segment

MP Yaduveer addressing a press meet in city this noon as ex-Mayor Sandesh Swamy, BJP District Spokesman M.A. Mohan and others look on.

Mysuru, July 4 (BLU&DM)- Alleging that there is a plot to enrol more than a lakh ineligible voters in Narasimharaja (N.R.) Assembly segment alone during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls exercise, MP Yaduveer Wadiyar has urged the district administration to carry out SIR in N.R. segment under Police security.

Addressing a press meet at the BJP Office in Chamarajapuram this noon, Yaduveer said that BJP Booth-level agents in N.R. have raised numerous complaints on enrolment of ineligible voters in the Assembly segment. "I have submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner, who is also the District Electoral Officer urging for carrying out SIR under Police security in the N.R. Constituency," he said and alleged that the ruling Congress Government has plotted to enrol illegal Bangladeshi migrants in electoral rolls across the State.

Yaduveer cited the Ramanagara incident, a video of which has gone viral, where BLOs and other officers are seen distributing and filling up forms to a large group of people who had gathered at a place of worship and a Choultry.

He alleged that booths in N.R. segment have become inaccessible to BJP workers.

Accusing the State Congress Government of following what the then West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee did in the run up to Assembly polls a couple of months ago, he reiterated that Mysuru District Administration should undertake SIR under Police security in N.R. segment, which has a large population of minorities.

'BLOs getting enumeration forms filled by party workers'

S.R. Mahesh

Meanwhile, JD(S) State Working President and former Minister S.R. Mahesh alleged that it has come to his notice that BLOs are themselves getting enumeration forms filled by ruling party workers in three wards of K.R. Nagar town by paying Rs. 50 for each form, on the pretext that they cannot move around under the scorching sun.

Stating that the matter has been brought to the notice of the DC, Mahesh took strong objection to Home Minister Priyank Kharge's statement defending mass enumeration drive that is being carried out in places of worship and marriage halls in the name of SIR, which has given rise to numerous irregularities. Such acts have raised suspicions in public circles, he maintained.

AI cannot translate Abhijata Sahitya: Scholar Shatavadhani Ganesh

Mysuru, July 4 (MTY&BS)- Noted scholar Shatavadhani Dr. R. Ganesh highlighted the enduring relevance of classical literature, saying no technology, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), can truly capture its depth and essence.

He was speaking in a session 'Abhijata Sahityada Avashyakate' (The Essentiality of Classical Literature) on the opening day of the Mysuru Literature Festival-2026 at Hotel Southern Star in city this morning.

Explaining the meaning of 'Abhijata', Shatavadhani Ganesh said, "It is the habit of reading by poring over the contents of a literary work and studying its concept in depth. Be it any form of literature, we have to begin with a deep understanding of the subject, as observed in the Chandogya Upanishad," he said.

'Abhijata' literature is akin to 'Yukta' literature, where totality (paripoornate) forms the very crux of the work. It is finely crafted, reflecting the literary excellence found in the works of Adikavi Pampa and Ranna."

Shatavadhani Dr. R. Ganesh sharing his views at Mysuru Literature Festival-2026 today.

AI influx

Referring to the influence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools such as ChatGPT and other advanced technologies in translating literary works, Shatavadhani Ganesh said it is impossible to translate classical scholarly literature with the aid of technology.

"Is it easy to translate the 'Halegannada' used by Pampa or Kumaravyasa using AI?" he asked, describing it as a cumbersome and onerous task. The essence of such literary works lies in their unique style of writing, and the works of Kalidasa also belong to the same league, he opined.

"Abhijata Sahitya cannot be translated into any language in the world because it is so intricately written, with its own unique and distinctive qualities. It is like the waves of the ocean, which offer a fresh perspective every time they return to the shore. Reading Abhijata Sahitya provides a universal experience and adds permanent value to literature," he said.

Referring to the present generation, Ganesh said that earlier people exercised to maintain good health, whereas today many do so merely to tone their bodies.

"Nowadays, people have lost the ability to enjoy the simple pleasures of life. Earlier, people would spontaneously exclaim 'Wow!' after savouring a delicious meal, but now it is just the opposite," he rued.

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05	Carton and Paper Waste	2 Tons	Rs. 3,000/-	1.7.26 to 31.7.26
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10th Edition of Mysuru Literature Festival 2026

Meet Celebrity Literary Luminaries at Lit Fest

SCHEDULE — JULY 5 (SUNDAY)

Venue: Jyothi Hall, Hotel Southern Star (English Events)

TIME	PANEL	PANELLISTS
9.30 am - 10 am	*'Shakespeare Masala'*	Jonathan Gil Harris
10 am - 11 am	'Pouranic fantasies and divine super heroes'	Amish Tripathi & Aroon Raman
11 am - 11.45 am	'The fantastic fleeting Phantoms of ghosts and spookiness'	Sanjoy K. Roy & Deepti Navaratna
11.45 am - 12 noon	*'GANDHADAGUDI - A Journey to Remember'* book cover release of Amoghavarsha, Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar and Pankaj Singh by Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Wadiyar	
12 noon - 12.45 pm	'The Human Prompt: Reading, Writing and Wonder in the Age of AI'	Adarsh Sudhindra & Ajay Pramod
12.45 pm - 1.30 pm	'Pushing the boundaries with societal satires'	Mahesh Rao & Madhavi Menon
1.30 pm - 2.15 pm	'Histories across Border'	Jonathan Gil Harris & Stanley Carvalho
2.15 pm - 3 pm	'Crafting the Short Story: Writing, Revising and Getting Published'	Srividya Tadepalli, Ratul Ghosh, Salini Vineeth, Sumanya Velamur & Suchitra Sukumar
3 pm - 3.45 pm	'Mystery, adventure: The human mind craft vivid fiction'	Saharu Nusaiba Kannanari, Sachin Bhandari & Arunima Tenzin Tara
3.45 pm - 4.30 pm	'The Science that refuses to behave'	Upasana Sarraju, Kollegala Sharma & Mahima Jain
4.30 pm - 5.15 pm	'Song from the South'	Sumana Chandrashekar, Sharath R. Rao & M.C. Jyothsna Hebbar
5.15 pm - 6 pm	'Plethora of roles on screens — A versatile open book'	Kubbra Sait, Trish Joudrey & Tabeenah Anjum

Venue: Gardenia, near Swimming Pool, Hotel Southern Star (Kannada Events)

TIME	PANEL	PANELLISTS
10 am - 10.45 am	*'Badalaguttiruva madhyamadalli mahila drishtikonada ouchitya, anivaryate'*	Chetana Belegere, H.N. Aarti, Shantala Dharmaraj & Preeti Nagaraj
10.45 am - 11.30 am	*'Mysurina parisara, keregala rakshaneyalli nagarika honegarike'*	Maj. Gen. Sudhir G. Vombatkere, Parashurame Gowda, U.N. Ravikumar & Dr. H.S. Champa
11.30 am - 12.15 pm	*'Prastuta yuva samajada unnatikaranadalli bhasha vijnana, samshodhane mattu sahityada patra'*	Dr. Hampana & Dr. H.T. Shailaja
12.15 pm - 12.30 pm	*'Neralu': Kamsale* performance by women's team.	
12.30 pm - 1 pm	Releasing of the book *Dashakada Sambhramakke 'Barahada Baagina'* by Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Wadiyar and Bangalore Rural MP Dr. C.N. Manjunath	
1 pm - 1.45 pm	*'Vaidyakiya sevegalannu samajada anchinalliruva sahasraru mandige talupisuva savalugalu'*	Dr. C.N. Manjunath
1.45 pm - 2.30 pm	*'Kathe, kavya karana: Haleya hambalagalannu daati huttida hosa pratibhegalu'*	Vikram Hatwar, Deepa Joshi, N. Sandhya Rani & Lingaraj Sottappanavara
2.30 pm - 3.15 pm	*'Kavithegalalli hariva jeevanadiya kalarava'*	Swami Ponnachi, Nadeema Sanadi, Kabbali, Saviraj Anandur, Dr. MGR Urs & B.M. Praveen
3.15 pm - 4 pm	*'Samakaleena Kannada kadambarigalalli adhunikateya sankeerna nelegalu'*	Dr. H.L. Pushpa, Dr. M.S. Ashadevi, Dr. Gajanana Sharma & Satish Chapparike
4 pm - 4.45 pm	*'Harate-Hasya Baduku-Bavanegala vividha mukhagala nitya darshana'*	Gaurish Akki, Keerthi Narayan (ENT), Prof. Krishnegowda & M.R. Roopshree
4.45 pm - 5.15 pm	*'Sahitya valayadalli sanchalana moodisiruva Ja.Na. Tejashree avara mahakadambari 'Jeevarati' ya bagge matukate'*	Ja.Na. Tejashree & Senani
5.15 pm - 6.15 pm	*'Cinema: Nenne-Indu-Naale'*	Dr. Bharati Vishnuvardhan, S.V. Rajendra Singh Babu, V. Nagendra Prasad, Mansore & Kusuma Ayarahalli

Yaduveer Wadiyar

Kubbra Sait

Jonathan Gil Harris

Stanley Carvalho

Sanjoy K. Roy

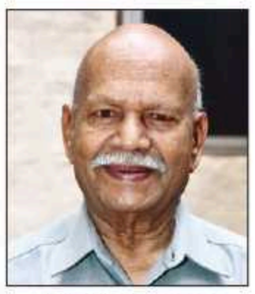
Deepti Navaratna

Adarsh Sudhindra

Madhavi Menon

Chetana Belegere

Vikram Hatwar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Gaurish Akki

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Kusuma

Season 5 Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20

Bhatkal guides Mysore Warriors to victory over Gulbarga Mystics

Warriors jump to 4th position on points table, keep their knockout hopes alive

Hubballi, July 4- Ritesh Bhatkal's unbeaten 75 in 42 balls was the highlight of Mysore Warriors three-wicket victory over Gulbarga Mystics at the ongoing Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20 tournament at KSCA Stadium here yesterday.

It was another thriller with Bhatkal holding things together to steer the Warriors home in 19.3 overs. Chasing 197, the 33-year-old dug deep into his reserves, pulled the team back from early hiccups (2/39) and remained unconquered with four fours and five sixes. He was aided by Manoj Bhandage (24 off 15) as the pair combined for 37 runs in 23 balls to seize control despite a strong showing from the Mystics attack led by Nathan D'Mello (3-38), Paras Gurbax Arya (2-24) and Ronit More (2-41).

The Warriors moved up out of the bottom with their third victory from eight matches and sit in fourth position on seven points while the Mystics are now below them on six points after their fifth loss. The Mystics, put into bat, relied on disciplined batting before seamlessly shifting gears to steady the ship from 2-24 in 2.4 overs to a more manageable 147-5 in 16 overs.

Young all-around No. 4 Dhruv Prabhakar and attacking No. 5 Thippa Reddy batted with composure and added a 29-ball 56 for the fourth wicket to pull up the Gulbarga Mystics before Manish Pandey unleashed a late assault of 41 runs in only 19 deliveries with six fours and a six.

The Raichur-born Thippa Reddy (51 off 26) slammed his second successive half century studded with five fours and three sixes while the 21-year Dhruv also made the most of his promotion making a fluent 51 in 35 balls with six fours and a six. For the Warriors, Arbind Rai and Lavish Kaushal were the most successful bowlers with 3-31 and 3-25 respectively.

In the other match, Bengaluru Blasters secured a last ball victory against Hubli Tigers. Chasing a target of 197 runs, the Blasters were able to cross the margin in last ball of 20th over with three wickets in hand. With this victory, Bengaluru Blasters became the first team to qualify for the knockouts with 14 points. Meanwhile, Hubli Tigers ended up in the bottom position with 6 points.

With the completion of the Hubballi leg, tournament shifts to Bengaluru for final leg which starts tomorrow at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium with Bengaluru Blasters taking on Mysore Warriors at 2.30 pm.

Brief Scores: Gulbarga Mystics 196-7 in 20 overs (Macneil Noronha 27, Dhruv Prabhakar 51, Thippa Reddy 51, Manish Pandey 41 not out; Arbind Rai 3-31, Lavish Kaushal 3-25) lost to Mysore Warriors 197-7 (L R Chethan 23, Ritesh Bhatkal 75 not out , K.P. Lankesh 29, Manoj Bhandage 24; Nathan D'Mello 3-38, Paras Gurbax Arya 2-24, Ronit More 2-41).

Hubli Tigers 196/6 in 20 overs (Kruthik Krishna 34, Aneeshwar Gautam 31, Abhinav Manohar 35, Shivkumar Rakshith 50 not out, Manvanth Kumar 28; Shubhang Hegde 2/24) lost to Bengaluru Blasters 197/7 in 20 overs (Praveen Dubey 64 not out, Shubhang Hegde 41, Wahid Faizan Khan 25; Shikhar Shetty 3-19, Vaibhav Sharma 2-56).

TOMORROW'S MATCHES (JULY 5)

Bengaluru Blasters Vs Mysore Warriors	2.30 pm
Shivamogga Yodhas Vs Hubli Tigers	7 pm

VENUE: M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru.

Catch the live action on ***Sony Ten 5*** and ***Sony Kannada.***
Live streaming also available on ***Fancode.***

Wins gold medals in Ice Skating

Mysuru, July 4- Kirti Raj Singh, student of 8th Grade at Mahajana Public School, Jayalakshmipuram, won 4 gold medals at the 21st National Ice Skating Championship 2026 held at Dehradun recently and became the National Champion for the fifth consecutive year. He also won three gold medals in the Junior D Boys Category also held at Dehradun in month of June this year.

Kirti Raj Singh

Diamond Jewellery Expo inaugurated at Tanishq

Tanishq Mysore inaugurated its Exclusive Diamond Jewellery Exhibition at its showroom on B.N. Road in city yesterday. Esteemed Customers Shwetha Jayaprakash, Nirmala Poonacha, Sharanya D. Chouta, Sarala Natraj and Sangeetha inaugurated the expo in the presence of Franchise Sasitharan, Business Development Manager Vinod Kumar, SM Sanjay and all staff. The expo will be open between 10.30 am and 8.30 pm till July 5.

Ashada **Fridays atop Chamundi Hill**

Pramoda Devi Wadiyar objects to Rs. 2,000 *darshan* ticket

Mysuru, July 4 (SPN&DM)- Taking strong exception to the Sri Chamundi Hill Development Authority's decision to issue Rs. 2,000 ticket for special *darshan* of Goddess Chamundeshwari in the Hill Temple on *Ashada* Fridays, erstwhile Mysore Royal Family Member Pramoda Devi Wadiyar said that the issuance of such a high price ticket was not necessary.

Pramoda Devi

Speaking to media persons here yesterday, Pramoda Devi opined that the price of special *darshan* ticket should have been decided after calling a meeting in this regard.

"I do not understand how the authorities have taken a unilateral stand on pricing of special *darshan* ticket. As far as I know, no such meeting had taken place. The price of ticket is not fair considering the interests of the devotees. Also, it is not clear whether the tickets are available online or only in counters. We have no information about this," she pointed out.

Noting that the erstwhile Mysore Royal Family has moved the Courts on Chamundeshwari Hill Temple matter, she said that the family will react to those concerned in the right way.

"I pray the Almighty to give sense to the people who are behind the Rs. 2,000 special *darshan* ticket," she added.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Power disruption tomorrow

As Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC) has taken up installing 400 KV electric towers and lines for the 11KV Tata Mines-NJY line in the Kadakola-IP limits (coming under 220/66/11KV Kadakola Power Receiving Centre), there will be disruption in power supply tomorrow (July 5) between 10 am and 5 pm in the following areas: Kadakola, K.M. Hundi, Hosamala, KIADB Road, Koodanahali, Kochanahalli, Byathahalli, Sinduvalli, Chikkakanya, Doddakanya IP areas and surrounding areas, according to a press release from the Executive Engineer, CESC, N.R. Mohalla Division.

Admission to Diploma Courses

Admissions are now open for the 2026-27 academic year at Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET), Mysuru, for its Diploma Courses. Candidates who have passed ITI or PUC (Science) are eligible to seek admission directly to the 2nd year (3rd Semester) of the Diploma programme through the Lateral Entry Scheme. Only a limited number of seats are available. Interested candidates may contact Ph: 0821-2516322 or Mob: 81244-89163, according to a press release from the Joint Director & Head, CIPET, Mysuru.

Pratibha Puraskar

Yashaswini Mahila Sangha (Women's unit of Babbur Kamme Sangha), having office on Sahukar Chennaiah Road in Saraswathipuram, has invited applications from meritorious students (boys and girls) of Babbur Kamme community, who have scored more than 95 percent marks in SSLC (2025-26) and more than 90 percent marks in PUC (2025-26), for presentation of Pratibha Puraskar. Applications are also invited from the community students, who have scored high marks in Graduate or Post-Graduate courses (2025-26). Last date to apply, along with the required documents, is July 15. For details, contact Mob: 98866-36806 or 99456-23658 or 94818-30473.

Ph.D awardee

N. Ashwini has been awarded Ph.D in Library and Information Science by the University of Mysore (UoM), Mysuru, for her thesis 'Content Analysis of Websites of Private Universities in India: A Study' submitted under the guidance of Dr. Mallinath Kumbar.

Survey exposes poor state of public toilets

23% unfit for use; some turn home for caretakers; women use men's toilets in MCC Wards 25, 49

Mysuru, July 4 (MK&VNS)- Despite being one of India's preferred tourist destinations, Mysuru continues to struggle with inadequate public sanitation facilities.

While public toilets have been constructed at several locations, poor maintenance has rendered many of them unusable. Some have even been converted into living quarters by caretakers.

A survey conducted by the Centre for Study of Social Inclusion (CSSI), University of Mysore (UoM), has highlighted the poor condition of public toilets. The study, led by CSSI Associate Professor D.C. Nanjunda, covered 38 of the 46 public toilets maintained by the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC).

The survey found that only 26 percent of the toilets were in good condition, while 49 percent were rated as average. The remaining 25 percent were found to be in a deplorable state.

The team also uncovered several irregularities. At one public toilet, the facility had been converted into a living room with a cot, while caretakers were found using the premises for cooking and sleeping.

The survey further noted that some caretakers were under the influence of alcohol during working hours. In another instance, a man had been appointed as caretaker of a 'Pink Toilet,' a facility meant exclusively for women.

Toilet turns bedroom at T.K. Layout. Picture right shows a vendor selling vegetables in front of a public toilet near K.R. Hospital as one person enters the toilet to relieve himself.

'People are reluctant to pay Rs. 2'

Responding to the survey findings, **MCC Commissioner Shaikh Tanveer Asif** said that many people are reluctant to pay the nominal user fee of Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 and instead resort to open urination or defecation.

"To address this issue, an open-access public toilet has been constructed at the Town Hall premises in association with an NGO. However, many users are unwilling to pay even the nominal fee, which has created operational challenges," he said.

The Commissioner added that the Corporation would examine the issues highlighted in the survey and take steps to improve the maintenance and upkeep of public toilets across the city.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Prof. Nanjunda said, "Thirty of the city's 65 Wards do not have public toilets. Only about 53 percent of the toilets are equipped with sanitary pad dispensers or incinerators. Most toilets do not provide liquid soap for hand-washing. In most of the cases, the foul smell is so unbearable that people have to cover their noses before entering."

The survey also found that in Wards 25 and 49, women were using toilets meant for men due to the absence of separate facilities. It further noted that a public toilet constructed nearly a year ago at Gandabherunda Park in Ward 57, Kuvempunagar, is yet to be opened for public use. Similar is the fate of another public toilet in Manchegowdanakoppal.

Why spend on a new toilet, when the existing one can be repaired?

The old public toilet at Town Hall premises which is poorly maintained. Picture extreme right shows the newly built open toilet in the premises.

Mysuru, July 4 (VNS)- The public toilet at Town Hall, constructed by Mysuru City Corporation (MCC), is a complete mess with lack of maintenance.

The civic authority, which is in-charge of its maintaining, has completely neglected it.

While the MCC is expecting Mysuru to be accorded with top honour during Swachh Survekshan 2027, it needs to check on existing public toilets, most of which are in a bad condition. One such public toilet is, the one located in the Town Hall premises. The public toilet is in such a bad condition that is has turned unusable.

While the existing public toilet is in such a condition, the MCC has inaugurated a new open toilet for men at the same Town Hall premises. Though it was constructed by an NGO, the MCC could have used the funds for maintaining the already existing toilet than constructing a new open toilet.

Meanwhile, the newly constructed toilet has attracted criticism from many as they are open and lack privacy.

Town Hall, located in heart of the city, attracts a lot of footfall every day. Many would hesitate use the open toilet in the day time. This toilet can only be used by people late in the evenings or in the nights.

Howdah-carrier Abhimanyu's tusk
HALF-BROKEN

Mysuru, July 4 (MTY&BS)- The tusk of howdah-carrier of *Nada Habba* Mysuru Dasara elephant Abhimanyu was partially broken at Mathigodu elephant camp in Nagarahole Tiger Reserve forest yesterday.

The 59-year-old Abhimanyu was carrying the wooden logs in the camp, when the logs accidentally tilted and a portion of its left tusk was half-broken, unable to withstand the weight of the logs.

Abhimanyu, who will be carrying the 750-kg Golden Howdah during *Jumboo Savari* in the forthcoming Dasara too, has been the prime attraction of the cultural pageantry. He has been carrying the howdah consecutively since the year 2020 and will be carrying the howdah for the seventh year in a row, when Dasara unfolds in October this year too. However, with his tusk broken this time, he will be appearing in a 'new look.'

This elephant is a Dasara veteran, as he has been participating in the annual event for the past 30 years. He was pulling the *Aane Gaadi,* carrying the Police Band during *Jumboo Savari* from 2012 to 2015, followed by carrying wooden howdah during the Srirangapatna Dasara.

He is popularly known as 'AK-47' for successfully leading many combing operations, becoming an integral part of the tiger rescue operations of State Forest Department.

J.S. Vasantha is the mahout and J.K. Raju is the kavadi of Abhimanyu.

Kuvempunagar murder case

Fed up with abuse, wife plotted husband's murder: Police

Susheela & Nithyananda

Mysuru, July 4 (BCT)- The Mysuru City Police have formally arrested six persons, including the wife of Nithyananda, a private company employee, in connection with his murder at Kuvempunagar. All the accused have been remanded to judicial custody.

The arrested have been identified as S. Susheela (40), wife of the deceased and a private school teacher; V. Harish (32) of K.R. Nagar; Ranganath (42) of Thirumanahalli in Mulbagal, Kolar; M. Chandan (23) of Doddakari village in KGF; N. Gajendra (23) and K.S. Naveen (27).

Nithyananda was found dead under suspicious circumstances on June 29. Susheela told family members and Police that he had suffered a heart attack.

However, the deceased's brother noticed ligature marks on Nithyananda's neck and alerted the Police. Based on his complaint, Kuvempunagar Police registered a case and launched an investigation using both physical and technical evidence collected from the scene.

Sub-Inspector V. Madan Kumar and his team detained Susheela for questioning. Police said she confessed during interrogation that her husband frequently returned home drunk and allegedly subjected her to physical and mental harassment.

Unable to bear the alleged abuse, she is said to have conspired with her brother Harish and his associate Chandan to eliminate him. On the night of June 28, the trio allegedly brought five men from Kolar to Mysuru. Nithyananda was allegedly strangled to death inside the house with their help.

Based on her confession and evidence gathered during investigation, the Police arrested all.

Investigation was carried out under the guidance of DCP (Law & Order) Dr. Harsha Piyamvada and supervision of KR ACP K.C. Prakash. Team comprised Kuvempunagar Police Inspector (in-charge) C.E. Rohith, SI Madan, Police personnel Vasanth & Dhanuja, Crime Division staff V. Anand, K. Srinath, K.J. Suresh and D.S. Doddegowda.

Mandya Highway shoot-out case

Law, engineering students among 7 arrested

No robbery angle, just drunken highway shooting; weapon, pellets sent for forensic tests: SP

Mandya, July 4 (MR&BCT)- The Mandya Police have cracked the case of the early morning shooting near a petrol bunk close to Amaravathi Hotel on the outskirts of Mandya along the Mysuru-Bengaluru Highway.

Investigations have revealed that all seven accused are between 23 and 27 years of age, with some pursuing degrees in law and engineering. The incident, which occurred in the wee hours of Thursday, had raised serious concerns over public safety and reckless use of firearms on a busy national highway.

Addressing a press conference at her office yesterday, Mandya Superintendent of Police (SP) Dr. V.J. Shobha Rani clarified that the incident was not a robbery attempt. "The accused became enraged after the goods vehicle driver did not give way. They overtook the vehicle, blocked its path, abused the driver and fired a shot at the vehicle. There was no other motive behind the act," she said.

Mandya SP Dr. Shobha Rani

Goods vehicle which was attacked.

Pistol and pellets seized.

The arrested have been identified as H.V. Rohan Gowda, 23, a law student and son of businessman Vishal Raghu of Ashok Nagar in Mandya; Shashank, 25, a BE student and son of Thammanna of Marigowda Layout; Afan, 25, son of Kaleel of Dwarakanagar; Mohd. Umar, son of Mohammed Jaffer of Kuvempunagar; Nithin, 27, son of Joseph of Vidyanagar; Mohammed Abubakar, 25, son of Habibulla of Gandhinagar and Sachin, 26, a delivery head and son of Joseph of Vidyanagar.

Forensic analysis

SP said the seized weapon and pellets have been sent to Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) to determine whether it is an air pistol or a firearm.

According to the investigation, the accused had attended Afan's birthday celebration at a resort and were returning to Mandya when the incident occurred. Police suspect they were under the influence of alcohol at the time.

Victim Shankar, a resident of Gokulam in Mysuru and a driver with 'Super Speed Service Courier', was transporting pharmaceutical consignments from Bengaluru to Mysuru in a goods vehicle at 4.50 am on July 2.

Police said the accused, travelling in a Toyota Fortuner, honked while attempting to enter the service road from the highway. When the truck driver did not give way, they allegedly overtook the vehicle, intercepted it near Amaravathi Hotel, abused the driver and fired a shot into the goods vehicle. During interrogation, the accused reportedly admitted that they had fired "for fun" while intoxicated.

Fortunately, no one was injured. Though shaken, Shankar continued driving to his office in Mysuru and did not report the matter. Police later traced him through their sources, following which he lodged a complaint at Mandya Rural Police Station.

Using the registration number of the Toyota Fortuner, investigators tracked down the accused and arrested them. Police also seized the vehicle, an air pistol, two carbon dioxide cartridges and pellets.

Investigators are now trying to ascertain where the weapon was purchased and whether it was acquired legally.

Highway patrol intensified: SP

Following the shoot-out incident, the Mandya Police have stepped up security along the Mysuru-Bengaluru Highway. The Mandya Police have launched "area domination" operations, with highway patrol vehicles deployed between Nidaghatta and Naguvanahalli from 9 pm to midnight every day, the SP said.

Suspicious vehicles and individuals will be stopped and checked immediately. Police are also taking action against people consuming alcohol near the highway under the Excise Act. Surveillance has been intensified along the highway, service roads and underpasses to prevent similar incidents in future, SP Rani she added.

WORD OF THE DAY

Corrode

Pronunciation: kuh-ROHD (verb).
Meaning: Corrode means "to slowly break apart and destroy (metal, an object, etc.) through a chemical process" or "to undergo such a process." It is also used as a synonym of undermine to mean "to gradually destroy or weaken."
Origin: Corrode comes from Latin verb corrōdere, meaning "to gnaw or chew up." Corrōdere, in turn, combines the prefix cor- (used here as an intensifier with the meaning of "completely") with verb rōdere ("to gnaw"). (You may recognise another rōdere descendent, rodent, as a word for members of an order of gnaw-happy mammals.) At one time, corrode was used to literally indicate the action of gnawing away, as in "woodworms corroded the wood." But it is the more figurative senses from the action of gnawing or eating away that have persisted, as in "salt water corroded the iron" or "a lack of transparency by local officials is corroding public trust."
Example: "Each piece is made of durable steel with a powder coating that won't rust, fade or corrode in the weather." — Shea Simmons, Southern Living, 29 Apr. 2026

THE ODD WORD

Cabasset

Light iron helmet.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Desperate times call for desperate measures

Meaning: When you say 'Desperate times call for desperate measures' you mean that actions that might seem extreme under normal circumstances are appropriate during adversity.
Origin: The expression 'Desperate times call for desperate measures' is believed to have originated with a saying coined by the ancient Greek physician, Hippocrates. In his work Amorphisms, he wrote: "For extreme diseases, extreme methods of cure, as to restriction, are most suitable."
Example: "I really don't want to break up with Tim, but desperate times call for desperate measures."

QUOTE BOX

Walking with a friend in the dark is better than walking alone in the light.

— Helen Keller

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:

Answer: Cornerstone.

SUDOKU

		8	5					
	4			9		8		1
	1					3		
	8				9	1	2	
			8		2			
	9	6	7				8	
		9					4	
1		5		6			7	
					5	9		

Answer to previous puzzle

2	5	4	3	7	8	1	6	9
6	9	8	1	4	5	3	2	7
3	7	1	6	9	2	4	5	8
4	2	6	5	8	7	9	1	3
1	3	9	4	2	6	8	7	5
5	8	7	9	1	3	6	4	2
9	4	3	7	5	1	2	8	6
8	1	5	2	6	9	7	3	4
7	6	2	8	3	4	5	9	1

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS:

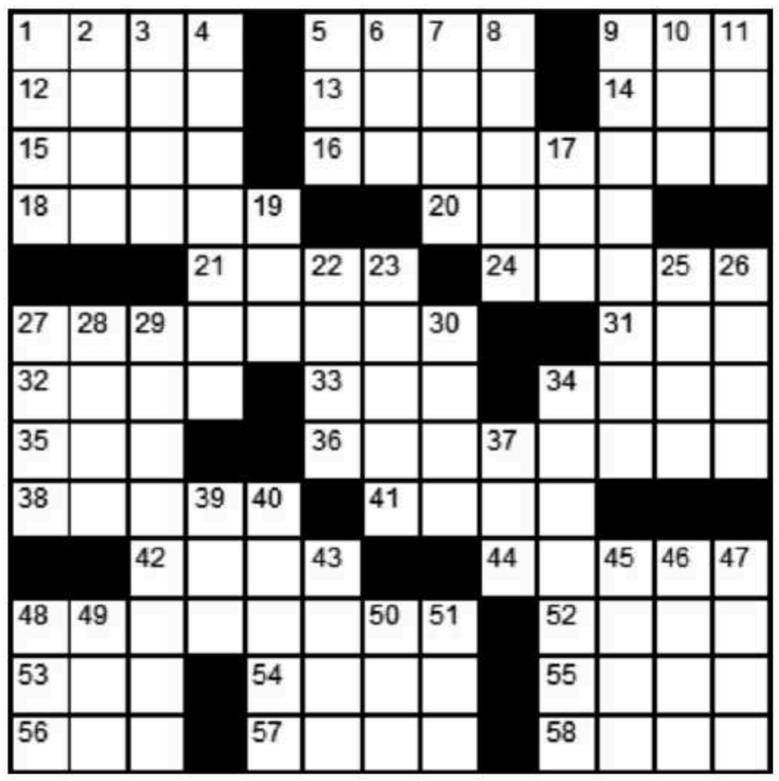
1 Hurtful remark
5 Nuclear weapon slang?
9 TV World News Service
12 Mimic or copier
13 Sugar producer
14 Even (poet.)
15 Cruise stop
16 Understanding of directions
18 Faithful
20 Heap
21 Financial obligation
24 Small and delicate
27 Chanakya was also known by this name
31 Consenting words while getting married? (1,2)
32 Beau ___ : English dandy?
33 A globe or sphere
34 It fits to _ ___ (it fits perfectly) (1,3)
35 Type of mineral
36 Gigantic
38 Confuse or obscure
41 Optical glass
42 __ __ arms: ready for a fight (2,2)
44 Opera singer
48 Disastrous collapse
52 Their capital for the Italians?
53 The entirety
54 A brewer's cart
55 Oodles
56 The heavens
57 Nimble - "year" anagram?
58 Single cut

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

A	T	N		U	D	F		B	R	I	O	
R	O	O		S	E	E		L	I	S	P	
C	O	N	S	I	S	T	S		O	N	E	S
	S	E	C	R	E	T	C	O	D	E		
A	R	E	T	E		R	O	A	M			
Y	O	N					O	N	E	A	L	
N	O	S	I	D	E		N	E	R	V	E	S
	D	E	N	I	M				E	E	L	
		C	L	E	O		F	O	R	T	Y	
	B	E	H	I	N	D	B	A	R	S		
R	O	T	I		D	I	S	D	A	I	N	S
A	T	T	N		E	L	E		O	A	F	
T	H	U	G		D	E	S		N	N	E	

DOWN

1 It's on top of the stumps
2 Furry dog Lhasa ____
3 To trust with confidence upon
4 Width
5 National Coal Board, abbr.
6 Abu Dhabi locale
7 Strike sharply
8 Strange and weird
9 Advantages
10 Implore
11 Central nervous system, acronym
17 Sick or unwell
19 Maui garland
22 Political alliance
23 Alpine region
25 Original thought
26 Ex-Hyderabad off-spinner ___ David
27 Door handle
28 Swiss river - change of "area"?
29 Helpfully or serviceably
30 Competent
34 Declares
37 Ontario, in short
39 Decide
40 ____ limits : absolutely far-fetched, in a way?
43 "Doll House" character
45 Time of day
46 Ever present as a prefix
47 A rough-edged tool
48 More: Sp.
49 Large deer
50 Armed conflict between nations
51 Evening of December 31st in short



CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

ARF'K LX AUETYOXA YK ZRRA-LOXE. Y GYHXVXWW

UE FXIXEEYHO LXGRHX ORN IYF TXXK YZYUF. YFA

TXXKUFZ YZYUF, YGKXH TRTXFKE RH WUGXKUTXE,

UE IXHKYUF GRH KPREX VPR YHX GHUXFAE.

TODAY'S CLUE: Z EQUALS G

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: Envy is the most stupid of vices, for there is no single advantage to be gained from it.

SINGLE SCREEN THEATRES

Mahadeshwara Theatre Mob: 99008-20093
Nagabandham - The Secret Treasure (K) - 4 Shows

Sangam Theatre Ph: 2520494
Nagabandham - The Secret Treasure (K) - 4 Shows

Woodlands Theatre Ph: 2422871
Balaramana Dinagalu (K) - 4 Shows

Gayathri Theatre Ph: 2443568
Graamaayana (K) - 4 Shows

Lido Theatre Ph: 2420885
Deadly Killer (K) - 4 Shows

Padma Theatre Ph: 2521923
Maa Inti Bangaaram (Te) - 4 Shows

Prabha Theatre Mob: 98454-14691
Aparadhi Nanalla - 4 Shows

Rajkamal Theatre Ph: 2423554
Gatta Kusthi 2 (Ta) - 4 Shows

Balaji Theatre Mob: 98863-25207
Alpha (H) - 3 Shows

MOVIES AT DRC CINEMAS Ph: 4240422 4241800

Graamaayana (K)	(S-1)	10.25 am, 1.10 am, 10.25 pm
	(S-2)	7.20 pm
Moda Kavida Vatavarana (K)	(S-1)	4.05 pm
Nagabandham (Te)	(S-1)	6.35 pm
Love Seasons (K)	(S-2)	10.10 am
Gatta Kusthi 2nd Round (Ta)	(S-2)	1.10 pm
Maa Inti Bangaaram (Te)	(S-2)	4.15 pm
Baby Do Die Do (H)	(S-2)	10 pm
Balaramana Dinagalu (K)	(S-3)	10.05 am
Minions and The monster (E-3D)	(S-3)	1.10 pm, 3.15 pm, 5.25 pm, 7.35 pm
Nagabandham (Te)	(S-3)	9.45 pm
Alpha (H)	(S-4)	10.10 am, 1.05 pm, 7.20 pm, 10.15 pm
Welcome to the Jungle (H)	(S-4)	4 pm

MOVIES AT MYSURU VISION CINEMAS Ph: 2973519

Balaramana Dinagalu (K)	(S-1)	10.25 am, 1.15 pm
Love Season (K)	(S-1)	4.05 pm
Balan : The Boy (K)	(S-1)	6.50 pm
Rao Bahadur (Te)	(S-1)	9.35 pm
Graamaayana (K)	(S-2)	10.50 am, 7 pm
	(S-3)	1 pm; (S-4) 4.25 pm
Alpha (H)	(S-2)	1.30 pm, 4.15 pm, 9.30 pm
	(S-4)	10.40 am
Nagabandham: The Secret Treasure (K)	(S-3)	3.25 pm
Nagabandham: The Secret Treasure (Te)	(S-3)	9.40 pm
Welcome to The Jungle (H)	(S-4)	1.20 pm, 9.45 pm
Gatta Kusthi 2 (Ta)	(S-4)	6.50 pm

MOVIES AT NEXUS MALL

Welcome to the Jungle (H)	:	9.15am, 12.35pm, 7pm, 10.20pm
Alpha (H)	:	9.30 am, 10.30 am, 1.30 pm 4.30 pm, 7.30 pm 9.30 pm, 10.30 pm
Cocktail 2 (H)	:	10 am, 3.55 pm
Graamaayana (K)	:	10.20 am, 12.30 pm, 6.50 pm
Minions & Monsters (E-3D)	:	11 am, 1 pm, 5.30 pm, 7.40 pm
Gatta Kusthi 2 (Ta)	:	1 pm, 6.50 pm
Rao Bahadur (Te)	:	1.05 pm
Nagabandham - The Secret Treasure (Te)	:	3.10 pm
Nagabandham - The Secret Treasure (H)	:	10 pm
Toy Story 5 (E-3D)	:	3.10 pm
Baby Do Die Do (H)	:	4.10 pm
Obsession (E)	:	4.35 pm
Maa Inti Bangaaram (Te)	:	7 pm
Supergirl (E-3D)	:	9.50 pm
Main Vaapas Aunga (H)	:	10.10 pm

MOVIES AT GARUDA MALL

Gatta Kusthi 2 (Ta)	:	9.55 am, 7.20 pm
Alpha (H)	:	10 am, 1 pm, 4 pm, 7 pm 10 pm
Moda Kavida Vaathavarana (K)	:	10.30 am
Graamaayana (K)	:	10.35 am, 3.10 pm, 7.40 pm
Welcome to The Jungle (H)	:	12.50 pm, 10.30 pm
Nagabandham - The Secret Treasure (Te)	:	12.55 pm 10:20 pm
Minions & Monsters (E-3D)	:	1 pm, 5.50 pm, 8 pm
Maa Inti Bangaaram (Te)	:	4.10 pm, 10.10 pm
Balaramana Dinagalu (K)	:	4.35 pm

EVENTS TODAY (JULY 4)

Industrial Extension Cottage (INDEXT-C), Government of Gujarat: Gujarat Handicrafts Utsav-2026, **up to 8 pm;** Traditional Ras-Garba & Tippani Dance, JSS Mysore Urban Haat, Ring Road, Hebbal Industrial Area, **6 pm.**

Kalasuruchi: Kathe Kelona Banni-939, story-telling by M.R. Anitha, Head Mistress, Government Higher Primary School, Kadanahalli, Mysuru taluk, Suruchi Rangamane, Kuvempunagar, **4.30 pm to 5.30 pm.**

Sri Thyagaraja Sangeetha Sabha Charitable Trust: Karnatak classical vocal concert by Vidu. G. Usha Somashekar, accompanied by Vid. Thandavamurthy on violin, Vid. P. Nataraj on mridanga and Vid. M.R. Mohan on morching, Sri Lakshminarasimhaswamy Temple, SBM Colony, Sriramapura 2nd Stage, **6 pm.**

Sanchalana Mysuru & Kannada and Culture Directortae, Bengaluru: Staging of play 'Bhava Yenage Hingitu' by Sanchalana troupe led by Deepak Mysuru, direction by M.R. Siddesh, Kiru Rangamandira, Kalamandira premises, **7 pm.**

Avadhoota Datta Peetham: 4k Projection Mapping on 45-ft tall Karya Siddhi Hanuman statue, Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda (SGS) Ashram, Dattanagar, Nanjangud Road, **(3 Shows) 7.10 pm, 7.40 pm and 8.10 pm.**

EVENTS TOMORROW (JULY 5)

We Care Welfare & Charitable Trust, Mysuru: Free cardiology camp, MLAs Tanveer Sait and K. Harishgowda will inaugurate, Trust premises, opposite Kantharaj Park, Lashkar Mohalla, **10 am to 2 pm.** [Mob: 90363-79136 or 98805-91115]

Industrial Extension Cottage (INDEXT-C), Government of Gujarat: Gujarat Handicrafts Utsav-2026, **10 am to 8 pm;** Traditional Ras-Garba & Tippani Dance, JSS Mysore Urban Haat, Ring Road, Hebbal Industrial Area, **6 pm.**

Kunchitigara Sangha, Myuru: 166th birth anniversary of Dharma Prakasha Rao Bahaddur D. Banumaiah, the Founder of D. Banumaiah Educational Institutions, garlanding of D. Banumaiah's bust and distribution of sweets, D. Banumaiah College premises, **10.30 am.**

Basava Samiti (Hebbal-Vijayanagar), Mysuru and Akhila Bharata Sharana Sahitya Parishat, Mysuru City Unit: *Sharana Sangama-319* and Parishat's Endowment Programme, writer Dr. Anasuya S. Kempanahalli delivers lecture on 'Sharanara Sthreepara Niluvugalu,' Parishat Mysuru City Unit President Dr. Jayappa Honnali chief guest, Basava Samithi President H.V. Basavaraju (Hinkal) presides, Basava Bhavan, CA No. 5, 11th Cross, Vijayanagar 1st Stage, **11 am.**

D. Banumaiah Yuva Brigade: 166th birth anniversary of Dharma Prakasha Rao Bahaddur D. Banumaiah, the Founder of D. Banumaiah Educational Institutions, Free health check-up camp by Suyog Multi-speciality Hospital, Free eye check-up camp by Navneeth Netralaya, distribution of free note books to students, Pratibha Puraskar to meritorious students and a voluntary blood donation camp in association with Jeevadhara Blood Bank, D. Banumaiah College premises, New Sayyaji Rao Road, **12 noon.**

Bangalore Theatre Collective: Staging of play 'Love Letters - Ninna Preetiya Naanu,' written by A.R. Gurney, adapted and directed by Venkatesh Prasad, the play features Kannada cinema actors Kishore Kumar and Siri Ravikumar, Mini Theatre, Kalamandira premises, **4 pm to 7 pm.**

Parampare: 'Devudu avara Mahabrahmana' *Vaachana-Vyakhyana* / Lecture programme, senior writer and retd. Kannada Professor *Nadoja* Prof. T.V. Venkatachala Sastry inaugurates, **5.45 pm;** 'Koushikana Solu' *Vaachana* by Vid. N. Shashank, *Vyakhyana* by Dr. Jyothi Shankar, Sri Nadabrahma Sangeetha Sabha, JLB Road, **6 pm.**

Avadhoota Datta Peetham: 4k Projection Mapping on 45-ft tall Karya Siddhi Hanuman statue, Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda (SGS) Ashram, Dattanagar, Nanjangud Road, **(3 Shows) 7.10 pm, 7.40 pm and 8.10 pm.**

MOVIES AT MALL OF MYSORE

Alpha (H)	:	9.45 am, 12.45 pm, 3.45 pm 6.45 pm, 9.45 pm
Maa Inti Bangaaram (Te)	:	9.45 am, 4 pm
Graamaayana (K)	:	10.05 am, 5.10 pm, 7.50 pm
Minions & Monsters (E-3D)	:	10.30 am, 3 pm, 7.50 pm
Obsession (E)	:	12.35 pm
Gatta Kusthi 2 (Ta)	:	12.50 pm, 7.10 pm
Welcome to the Jungle (H)	:	4.25 pm, 10 pm

MOVIES AT CENTRO MALL

Gatta Kusthi 2 (Ta)	:	9 am, 3.30 pm
Nagabandham - The Secret Treasure (Te)	:	10.05 am
Graamaayana (K)	:	10.10 am, 3 pm, 10 pm
Alpha (H)	:	10.15 am, 1.15 pm, 4.15 pm 7.15 pm, 10.15 pm
Welcome to The Jungle (H)	:	12.10 pm, 10.20 pm
Minions & Monsters (E-3D)	:	12.50 pm, 5.40 pm, 7.50 pm
Aparadhi Nanalla (K)	:	1.45 pm
Nam Kaaldal Hingirlilla Bidi (K)	:	4.25 pm
Love Seasons (K)	:	7.30 pm
Dark (2026) (Ta)	:	10.30 pm

NOTE: Movie timings published here are subject to sudden change by the theatre managements. The films are also liable to be changed in multiplexes if there is no minimum audience of 15.

RSS Baithak at Belagavi

Bengaluru, July 4 (KMS&DM)- The annual Akhil Bharatiya Prant Pracharak Baithak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) will be held this year at Belagavi in Karnataka from July 10 to 12.

In this Baithak, Prant Pracharaks, Sah Prant Pracharaks, Kshetra Pracharaks and Sah Kshetra Pracharaks from all over the country will participate. As per the Sangh's organisational structure, Karyakartas from all the 11 Kshetras and 46 Prants are also expected to attend.

Akhil Bharatiya Sanghatan Mantris of 32 Sangh inspired organisations will also be present.

The Baithak will have detailed discussions on implementation of Karya Yojana (Plans) at Shakha level. The Baithak will also review the expansion of Shakha Karya carried out in connection with the Sangh Shatabdi.

Besides, the Pracharaks attending the meeting will discuss their experiences related to current situation in the country and important contemporary subjects such as the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, census etc.

RSS Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat, Sarkaryavah Dattatreya Hosabale, Sah Karyavahs Dr. Krishnagopal, C.R. Mukunda, Arun Kumar, Ramdutt, Alok Kumar and Atul Limaye will take part. Ahead of the 3-day Baithak, Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat will arrive at Belagavi on July 6 to review the preparations for the RSS' annual meet.

The RSS meet in Belagavi will also deliberate on chalking out plans to bring the BJP back to power in Karnataka in the 2028 Assembly polls.

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